

The Office Action, on page 4, indicates that claims 2, 12 and 13 recite allowable subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that claims 2, 12 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowability but respectfully submit that at least independent claim 1 from which these claims directly or indirectly depend is allowable for the reasons indicated below.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by EP 1 078 769 A2 to Hilton et al. (hereinafter "Hilton"). The Office Action, on page 3, rejects claims 3-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hilton. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that Brian Hilton is the lead inventor regarding the subject matter of this application as well as the applied prior art reference. Hilton teaches a print element comprising a heat sink, a printed wiring member mounted on the heat sink, a thermal ink jet assembly mounted to the heat sink, and a manifold assembly mounted to the heat sink (Abstract). Hilton's manifold assembly 42 is described as comprising structural members preferably comprised of molded plastic, as is acknowledged by the Office Action at the top of page 3 (col. 4, lines 27-31). Such plastic components are not thermally conductive. It is for this reason, in fact, that the print element disclosed in Hilton comprises a heat sink.

As is recognized in the description of related art in Applicants' disclosure, a variety of devices and methods are conventionally used to dissipate heat in thermal fluid ejector heads (paragraph [0002]). One exemplary technique is to use a heat sink to store or conduct heat away from the fluid ejector head (paragraph [0004]). Applicants' disclosure goes on to describe the disadvantages of using a heat sink in conjunction with a fluid ejector head. It is these very disadvantages which are typified by the invention disclosed in Hilton.

Independent claim 1 recites a fluid ejector cartridge, comprising: a manifold that is molded from a polymer that includes at least one thermally conductive filler material; and a fluid ejector die module attached to the manifold. In fashioning a manifold from a polymer that includes at least one thermally conductive filler material, the necessity to employ another heat sink, such as that disclosed in Hilton, is reduced and/or eliminated. Heat is dissipated from the fluid ejector die module attached to the manifold through the thermally conductive capacity of the manifold. Such thermally conductive capacity is not available in a plastic manifold such as that disclosed in the Hilton reference.

For at least the above reason, Hilton does not disclose the combination of all of the features recited in at least independent claim 1. Additionally, claims 3-11 are also neither anticipated, nor would they have been suggested, by Hilton for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on independent claim 1, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter which each of these claims recites.

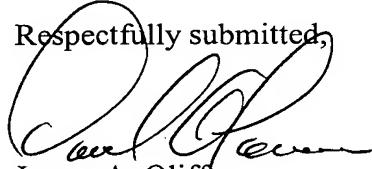
Applicants' representative discussed the above distinctions with Examiner Nguyen during the October 5 personal interview. The Examiner indicated that he better understood the subject matter recited in the claims and specifically the feature of the manifold being molded from a polymer including at least one thermally conductive filler material. The Examiner indicated further that he understood Applicants' distinction in pointing out that Hilton did not teach such a feature. Examiner Nguyen indicated that he would reconsider Applicants' arguments upon the filing of a formal reply.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 3-11 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) as being anticipated by, or unpatentable over, Hilton are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3-11

and 14-19, in addition to the allowable subject matter of claims 2, 12 and 13, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Daniel A. Tanner, III
Registration No. 54,734

JAO:DAT

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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